REMARKS

In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 1, 29, 57 and 85 were rejected under § 103(a) over European Patent No. 952513 (White) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,678,068 (Richter) and U.S. Patent No. 6,989,910 (Lomas). The remaining claims are all dependent, and were rejected as above or further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,820,124 (Clough) or U.S. Patent No. 6,628,413 (Lee). The rejections are respectfully traversed, and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in light of the following comments.

The present invention generally concerns the management of printing devices and printing queues on a network. Print queues are created for the printing devices and published to a network. In one aspect of the invention, policy rules for a print queue are entered by a system administrator, and a print queue is created for a printing device based on the policy rules.

By virtue of this arrangement, an administrator can enter policy rules, such as rules regulating which workstations can access the queue, and a queue subsequently created will be based on those rules.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for managing a plurality of printing devices connected on a network. The method includes detecting a printing device connected on the network, requesting information from the detected printing device, receiving the requested information from the printing device, accessing policy rules for the print queue, wherein the policy rules are entered by a system administrator, creating a print queue for the printing device based on the received

information and based on the policy rules, and publishing the print queue to the network according to the policy rules.

Independent Claims 29, 57 and 85 are directed to a device, computer-executable process steps and a computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) accessing policy rules for a print queue, wherein the policy rules are entered by a system administrator, and (ii) creating a print queue for a printing device based on the policy rules.

In this regard, page 3 of the Office Action concedes that White and Richter do not expressly indicate that policy rules are entered by a system administrator, but asserts that Lomas (Column 1, lines 15 to 25) discloses this feature.

As understood by Applicants, Lomas discloses a method employing a server for managing printer installations. The server receives printer identifier information from a network printer and then creates an executable installation program using the information, which is emailed to a client processor for installation of the printer on the processor. See Lomas, Abstract.

However, the cited portions of Lomas simply disclose that, during installation of a newly-added printer, "an administrator generally must first configure a print queue on a print server that is coupled to the network." Lomas, Column 1, lines 19 to 23. Nowhere is there seen to be any indication of policy rules being entered by an administrator, nor is there any disclosure of a print queue being created based on those

rules. In fact, these portions of Lomas imply that administrators configure a queue after the queue is created. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that simply "configuring" a queue is not the same as accessing policy rules for a queue, or creating a queue for a printing device based on the policy rules.

Accordingly, Lomas is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) accessing policy rules for a print queue, wherein the policy rules are entered by a system administrator, and (ii) creating a print queue for a printing device based on the policy rules.

White and Richter are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Lomas. In this regard, page 3 of the Office Action asserts that White (pararaph 0002) discloses accessing policy rules for a print queue, and specifically that White's "configuration proper parameters" correspond to queue policy rules which "are entered by a user (administrator)".

Applicants respectfully disagree with this characterization of White for a number of reasons. First, White's configuration parameters are seen to be data corresponding to a network address, rather than any sort of rule, much less a policy rule for queue configuration. See White, paragraphs 0015 and 0022. Moreover, even accepting for purposes of argument that White's configuration parameters somehow correspond to policy rules, White's configuration parameters are for a printer, not a queue. See White, paragraphs 0003, 0015, 0016 and 0022. Additionally, White's parameters are sent by the printer, rather than being entered by a user at all, much less entered by a system administrator. See White, paragraphs 0015 and 0022. Furthermore, as understood by Applicants, White in fact teaches away from accessing policy rules for a queue from an

administrator, as it is directed towards automatic configuration of a printer without user intervention. See White, paragraphs 0007 and 0009. In addition, the Office Action's assertion that "[White's] configuration proper parameters are entered by a user (administrator)" appears to be inconsistent with the Office Action's concession on page 3 that White does not disclose policy rules being entered by a system administrator.

Turning now to Richter, page 3 of the Office Action also asserts that Richter (Figures 24 to 30 and Column 13, line 25 et seq.) "clearly teaches the same." Here, it is not understood whether the Office Action is asserting that Richter discloses all of the features asserted in White, or only the feature of publishing the print queue to the network. For example, page 3, line 2 of the Office Action asserts that White is silent on publishing a print queue to the network, but line 7 of the same page asserts that White does teach this feature. Moreover, previous Office Actions have limited the use of Richter to the feature of publishing print queues to a network. See Office Action dated July 13, 2005 (Paper No. 20050710). At any rate, Applicants submit that Richter also fails to disclose at least the features of (i) accessing policy rules for a print queue, wherein the policy rules are entered by a system administrator, and (ii) creating a print queue for a printing device based on the policy rules.

Lee and Clough have been reviewed and are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of White, Richter and Lomas.

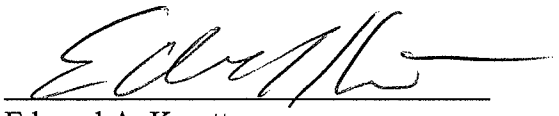
Therefore, independent Claims 1, 29, 57 and 85 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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